

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

Steering Team & RM&E Team Meetings

June 7, 2022

Meeting Summary

[Edits provided by Corps, OWRD]

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Steering_team/WST.html
http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette_RME/RME.html

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

Steering Team Session

Participants – Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brad Eppard (Corps), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Alyssa Mucken (OWRD), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Greg Taylor (Corps), Kate Wells (NOAA), Jeff Ziller (ODFW).

5/3/22 Joint Meeting Summary - The teams approved the May meeting summary with no additional edits.

Budget updates – There were no new updates since the May meeting.

May 26th Managers Forum Takeaways – The group reflected on the May 26th Managers Forum meeting, with a focus on the conversation around regional alignment and how regional alignment could potentially encourage Congressional support for the Willamette Basin projects. Specifically, team members wanted to understand what “alignment” means, where it is needed, how the region can work towards alignment (if not already there), and how alignment is best demonstrated.

One example of where regional alignment would be beneficial is around the large-scale downstream fish passage projects. Previously, there have been differing perspectives on the efficacy of passage solutions, and this was thought to have played a role in decision making around funding. Similarly, it could be beneficial for the region to agree on an acceptable level of risk and uncertainty in regard to projects, recognizing that there will always be more data that could be gathered and action is needed ASAP to support species. Lamprey work was an example of where alignment benefited the region.

Competition from other "ecosystem restoration" projects, such as the Everglades also impacts funding. Emily noted that at the Managers Forum, there was a renewed commitment for the non-federal members to connect with each other ahead of outreach to D.C. and Patty O'Toole offered to be a convener.

It was suggested that once the Draft EIS is released, it will be a good time for the Steering Team to dive deeper into exploring where there is alignment, where there is not, and how the region can work towards common goals.

The next Steering Team Session is scheduled for August 2, 2022

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Joint Steering & RM&E Session

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WATER Partner Updates

- **USFWS** - Mike noted that USFWS recently completed the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report; the report will be included in the Draft EIS.
- **ODEQ** - Nancy reported that Zach Loboy is on a detail with ODEQ headquarters for the next 4-6 months. Steve Mrazik will represent ODEQ on the Managers Forum during this time.
- **OWRD** - Alyssa provided an overview of her new role which will be to work on complex water management issues in the Willamette River Basin. This will include technical, policy and legal planning and implementation of the Willamette Basin Allocation Review.
- **Corps** - Greg Taylor will be attending the Steering Team on behalf of Eric Petersen moving forward.
- **NOAA** - Kate reported that Logan Negherbon, NOAA's fish passage engineer has taken another position. Keith Kirkendall (supervisor of NOAA's engineering group) is also retiring at the end of the month. Kelly noted that ODFW is interested in being involved with the Dexter redesign and can provide some technical support, in light of Logan's departure. Anne will be taking on the Dexter work and will follow-up with Kelly and the Corps' representative Ross Foster to loop ODFW in.
- There were no updates from **BPA, CTGR** and **NPCC**.

WATER Team Updates

- **HTT** - Eric Andersen was not able to attend the meeting; however, Dan shared that the HTT Technical Review Team visited the CTGR Chahalpam site on the North Santiam River in May and the project proposal is currently in review.
- **RM&E** - There were no updates.
- **EIS Schedule Updates** - The public virtual room can be accessed via <https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/V6zaxVGM1eZ>
- **Injunction Updates** - Public information about the Willamette Valley Injunction can be accessed via: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/>.

RM&E Team Session

Participants – Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brad Eppard (Corps), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Alyssa Mucken (OWRD), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

FY21/FY22 Studies & Screwtrapping Updates – Brad noted the last set of fish were tagged and released for the Foster spring spill study. Some Chinook were lost due to disease; however, the researchers were able to tag extra steelhead. Outplanting for Green Peter will be occurring soon.

The Corps continues to provide biweekly reports on the screw traps from the contractor. Due to weather/flow conditions, some screwtraps had to be pulled from the river. Most of the traps are now back in the water, except for the trap below Green Peter which has a broken cable. Anne noted that there was a shortfall of Middle Fork fish to use for screwtrap efficiency testing; consequently, the site below LOP in the

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Dexter pool will be dropped and will not be subject to further testing. Anne noted that elastomer tags are being used to tag small fishes to track movement.

Surrogate program – There were no updates on the surrogate program.

Team Updates and Coordination - There were no updates

The next RM&E Team Session is scheduled for July 5, 2022